

Strategic Planning Goal 1 Committee: May 3, 2007 Meeting

Committee members present:

Walter Zaumseil, Arlington Co.
Skip Steinhauer, Benefit Programs
Cynthia Greene, Caroline Co.
Glenn Stratton, DCSE
Mary Ward, representing Child Care

Old Goal 1 Statement:

Enhance the independence, well-being and personal responsibility of customers.

The Goal Statement should be a description of what the VSSS will work towards within the 5 years of this plan.

In consideration of the former Goal 1 statement, there was a discussion of what “independence” is, and whether it is self-sufficiency. The group decided it was more accurate to refer to economic independence. There was also recognition that some families and individuals will never be economically independent, that there will be some who are marginally employed or marginally capable of being personally independent. Those families will still need services and supports.

There was a discussion of whether we are enhancing the actual condition of our clients/customers or whether we need to enhance our safety-net programs, such as raising the TANF payments levels.

In discussing what “well-being” means, it was decided that this term often refers to child welfare and protective types of services for families and adults. Often we focus on families, but the needs of adults and individuals also should be included.

Personal responsibility refers back to the economic self-sufficiency, as well as taking care of one’s individual and personal responsibilities to children and families.

The final draft Goal Statement was revised to read:

Maximize the economic independence, safety and stability of individuals and families.

Objectives under this goal are:

1.1 Maximize self-sufficiency.

There was discussion of the need to include self-sufficiency as a focal point for this goal, because of our directive from the Steering Committee and the Commissioner. The strategies for this objective will center on increasing education, earnings, income, higher wages and job retention.

1.2 Maximize independence.

The strategies for this objective will take into consideration that there are families and individuals who will need continuing assistance and supports, like mental health, housing, Food Stamps, etc. Also, we would include efforts to increase the ability of FC children who are aging out to live independently.

Potential strategies for these objectives include:

- Identify projected high-demand occupations.
- Implement effective job readiness and training classes.
- Increase the number or percent of TANF leavers with a high school education or GED.
- Develop partnerships to increase employment and training opportunities.
- Increase child support collections.
- Increase participation in EITC.
- Identify FC children aged 16+ not on track to graduate.
- Increase opportunities for all low-income children with a B or better GPA in high school to receive community college education.

1.3 Protect vulnerable adults and children.

The strategies associated with this objective will deal with child and vulnerable adult well-being. Programmatic areas to include are CPS, APS, Licensing and Child Care.

1.4 Ensure individuals and families have access to services and supports.

There was a lot of discussion of allowing families to live as independently as possible, with minimal intervention, but also having access to the right blend of services to support them.

Next meeting: Thursday, May 24th, 10:00 till 3:00 at the Central Regional Office (VISSTA Training Center)